

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed April 26, 2005, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration in view of the above claim amendments and the following remarks. The claims as presented are believed to be in allowable condition. Claim 8 has been amended to clarify that the CD-ROM device portion, the disk adapter portion, the disk device portion, the display adapter portion, the first serial drive portion, the MAC address portion, the processor serial number portion, the processor type portion, the RAM size portion, and the SCSI adapter portion of the hardware ID are generated during the installation of the software product on the computer system. Support for this amendment may be found on page 11, lines 18-23 through page 13, lines 1-14 of the Specification. No new matter has been added.

Claims 8 and 10-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Leyda (U.S. Patent 5,867,730), and further in view of Kedeem (U.S. Patent 6,845,428), Bodo (U.S. Patent 6,480,925), Bondy et al. (U.S. Patent 5,491,813, hereinafter "Bondy"), Dapper et al. (U.S. Patent Application 2002/0106060), and Benson, IV et al. (U.S. Patent 6,081,752, hereinafter "Benson"). Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Leyda, Kedeem, Bodo, Bondy, Dapper, Benson, and further in view of Lawrence et al. (U.S. Patent 5,995,424, hereinafter "Lawrence").

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 8 and 10-18 are rejected as being unpatentable over Leyda and further in view of Kedeem, Bodo, Bondy, Dapper, and Benson. The rejection of these claims is respectfully traversed.

Amended independent claim 1 specifies a hardware ID for identifying a plurality of components of a computer system. The hardware ID is stored on the computer system and is generated during the installation of a software product on the computer system. The hardware ID includes a CD-ROM device portion identifying a CD-ROM device of the computer system, a disk adapter portion identifying a disk adapter of the computer system, a disk device portion identifying a disk device of the computer system, a display adapter portion identifying a display adapter of the computer system, a first drive serial portion identifying a disk drive of the computer system, a MAC address portion identifying a MAC address of the computer system, a processor serial number portion identifying a processor serial number of the computer system, a processor type portion identifying a processor type of the computer system, a RAM size portion identifying a RAM size of the computer system, and a SCSI adapter portion identifying a SCSI adapter of the computer system. The CD-ROM device portion, the disk adapter portion, the disk device portion, the display adapter portion, the first serial drive portion, the MAC address portion, the processor serial number portion, the processor type portion, the RAM size portion, and the SCSI adapter portion of the hardware ID are generated during the installation of the software product on the computer system.

It is respectfully submitted that none of the cited references, alone or in combination, teaches, discloses, or suggests all of the features specified in amended independent claim 8. For example, none of the cited references teaches, discloses, or suggests a hardware ID including a CD-ROM device portion, a disk adapter portion, a disk device portion, a display adapter portion, a first serial drive portion, a MAC address portion, a processor serial number portion, a processor type portion, a RAM size portion,

and a SCSI adapter portion, that is generated during the installation of a software product on a computer system.

In the Office Action, it is alleged that the combination of Leyda, Kedeem, Bodo, Bondy, Dapper, and Benson discloses the features specified in claim 8. This allegation is respectfully traversed. In particular, Leyda discloses an initialization program which is run during startup of a computer system. The initialization program sends query instructions to one or more peripherals (such as a CD-ROM) drive in the computer system and receives data which may then be used to uniquely identify the model number or type of the peripheral device (See Abstract). Leyda, however, fails to disclose generating a hardware ID for a hardware device in a computer system. As discussed above, the initialization program Leyda merely identifies an already existing model number for a peripheral device based on information received from the peripheral device. Leyda also discloses executing an initialization program for identifying peripherals. As discussed above, claim 8 specifies the generation of a hardware ID during the installation of a software product on a computer system. Thus, Leyda fails to disclose this feature.

Similar to Leyda, the cited references Kedeem, Bodo, Bondy, Dapper, and Benson all fail to disclose the generation of portions of a hardware ID during the installation of a software program on a computer system. Therefore, claim 8 is allowable and the rejection of this claim should be withdrawn. Claims 10-18 each depend from amended independent claim 8 and thus are allowable for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 8 in addition to the additional features specified therein. For example, Dapper is relied upon in the Office Action to disclose the hashing of a CD-ROM device identification string, disk adapter PCI vendor and device identifications,

disk device identification string, video adapter PCI vendor and device identifications, and an operating system assigned serial number of a first drive partition in paragraph 379. Dapper, however discloses none of these features. Instead, Dapper discloses several integrated service units (“ISUs”) in communication with a telecommunications network. Paragraph 379 of Dapper discloses that the serial numbers of the ISUs may be compressed into a hash code for communication over a limited bandwidth. Accordingly, for at least the aforementioned reasons, the rejections of claims 10-18 should also be withdrawn.

Claim 9 is rejected as being unpatentable over Leyda, Kedeem, Bodo, Bondy, Dapper, Benson, and Lawrence. Claim 9 depends from amended independent claim 8 and thus specifies at least the same features. As disclosed in the Office Action, Lawrence discloses a 64 bit hardware piece. Lawrence, however fails to disclose a 64 bit hardware ID as specified in claim 9. Lawrence also, like Leyda, Kedeem, Bodo, Bondy, Dapper, and Benson, fails to teach, disclose, or suggest each of the features of amended independent claim 8 (from which claim 9 depends). Therefore, claim 9 is allowable and the rejection of this claim should be withdrawn.

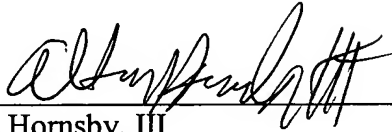
Conclusion

For at least the aforementioned reasons, Applicants asserts that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Applicants further assert that this response addresses each and every point of the Office Action, and respectfully requests that the Examiner pass

this application to allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions, please contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at 404.954.5035.

Respectfully submitted,
MERCHANT & GOULD

Date: June 29, 2005



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